

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16593 181554Z

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 16450; (B) MOSCOW 16495

1. COVERAGE OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS FOR NOVEMBER 17-18 IS LIMITED TO AN ARTICLE IN IZVESTIYA ON THE EVENING OF THE 17TH. THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE SUMMIT IN EITHER PRAVDA OR SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA FOR THE 18TH.

2. THE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE WAS TELEPHONED FROM PARIS BY PAPER'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT L. VOLODIN AND TAKES THE SAME CYNICAL, NEGATIVE LINE FOLLOWED IN VOLODIN'S DESPATCH OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16593 181554Z

NOVEMBER 14 (REF A). ENTITLED "AROUND THE MEETINGS AT

RAMBOUILLET", IT EMPHASIZES THE SECRECY OF THE CONFERENCE, THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF REACHING ANY SIGNIFICANT AGREEMENTS, THE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WHICH DIVIDE THE CONFEREES AND THEIR EFFORTS TO PRESENT AN APPEARANCE OF UNITY. THERE IS A BRIEF MENTION OF DISCUSSION OF EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

3. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT AS THE MEETING ENTERS ITS THIRD DAY CONVERSATIONS CONTINUED TO BE CONDUCTED "IN STRICTEST SECRECY". ABOUT THREE THOUSAND POLICEMEN ARE GUARDING THE APPROACHES TO THE HIGH WALLS OF THE CASTLE. ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE INFREQUENT AND SHORT AND FROM THEM ONE CAN ONLY "DERIVE INFORMATION ON THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONVERSATIONS AND THE SUBJECTS BEING DISCUSSED". THE NEGOTIATORS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY MANY ADVISORS. "FOR EXAMPLE, ONE MAY LOOK AT THE USA DELEGATION WHICH CONSISTS OF ABOUT 500 ADVISORS AND EXPERTS."

4. "NATURALLY", THE ARTICLE GOES ON, "THE LEADERS OF THE SIX STATES DO NOT HIDE THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE MET TO CONSIDER ECONOMIC, TRADE AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH NOW SERIOUSLY CONFRONT THE ENTIRE CAPITALIST WORLD." FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS THE INDUSTRIALLY DEVELOPED WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE ENDURED A SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS WHICH HAS HURT THEIR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND THEIR FINANCIAL SYSTEM IN ADDITION TO CAUSING INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, "DIFFERENCES OF OPINION" BETWEEN THE CAPITALIST POWERS HAVE "SHARPLY STRAINED THEIR RELATIONS".

5. THE ARTICLE QUOTES PARIS NEWSPAPERS AS WRITING THAT THE TASKS OF THE CONFERENCE ARE NOT ONLY NOT EASY BUT "PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO RESOLVE IN A THREE-DAY PERIOD". HENCE, NO COMMUNIQUE IS EXPECTED. FURTHERMORE, MANY CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMON MARKET "FOLLOW THE TALKS AT RAMBOUILLET WITH SUSPICION AND DISTRUST". THEY FEAR THAT "THE SIX" WILL FORCE THOSE EEC MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTED TO AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS WHICH THEY ESTABLISH AT THE MEETING.

6. THE PARIS PRESS IS ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT NEVERTHELESS "THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE AN IMPRESSION OF UNITY AND STRENGTH" WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16593 181554Z

TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORLD MARKET. IT IS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO HIDE THEIR DISAGREEMENT AND PRESENT THE MEETING AS A SUCCESS. THE FRENCH PRESS IS NOT OF COURSE, "WAITING FOR MIRACLES" AT RAMBOUILLET.

7. THE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ADDS THAT ON THE BASIS OF ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION THE MEETING HAS "UP TO NOW ... REACHED NO AGREEMENT IN ITS APPROACH TO DECISIONS" ON THE THREE

MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS. THESE ARE SAID TO BE ENERGY POLICY, MINETARY REGULATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE. A PRESS SPOKESMAN HAS SAID ONLY THAT "LAST NIGHT (NOVEMBER 16) THE LEADERS OF THE SIX COUNTRIES 'CONCRETELY, DEEPLY AND FRUITFULLY DISCUSSED MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE.'"

8. THE ARTICLE WINDS UP WITH THE REPORT THAT ON THE MORNING OF THE 17TH IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST COUNTRIES WOULD BE DISCUSSED ALTHOUGH THIS SUBJECT WAS ALLEGEDLY NOT ON THE MEETING'S ORIGINAL AGENDA. MATLOCK

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